

CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A towing assembly, comprising:
a hitch ball receiver ~~including a hitch ball mounting aperture and a recess around said aperture~~ having at least one cavity;
a hitch ball ~~including a base and a mounting shank, said base being sized and shaped to be received in said recess~~; and
a member connected with the hitch ball, wherein the member is engageable with the cavity to prevent rotation of the hitch ball during installation ~~fastener engaging said shank and securing said hitch ball to said hitch ball receiver.~~
2. (currently amended) The towing assembly of claim ~~1~~35, wherein said recess is acircular.
3. (original) The towing assembly of claim 2, wherein said recess includes a sidewall engaging said base.
4. (original) The towing assembly of claim 3, wherein said hitch ball receiver includes a first face and a second face, said recess being provided in said first face.
5. (original) The towing assembly of claim 4, further including a second recess, said second recess being provided in said second face.
6. (original) The towing assembly of claim 5, further including a spacer sized and shaped to be received in either of said recess and said second recess.
7. (original) The towing assembly of claim 6, wherein said recess and said second recess are a shape selected from a group consisting of oval, polygonal, square, rectangular, star and hexagonal.
8. (currently amended) The towing assembly of claim ~~1~~35, wherein said ~~recess~~ cavity is a channel.

9. (original) The towing assembly of claim ~~2~~ 8, wherein said hitch ball receiver is a ball mount head.

10 – 16 (cancelled)

17. (original) The towing assembly of claim 1, wherein said hitch ball receiver is a hitch bar.

18. (currently amended) The towing assembly of claim ~~4~~17, wherein said hitch bar includes a tongue.

19. (currently amended) The towing assembly of claim 18 wherein said ~~hitch ball mounting aperture and said recess are~~ cavity is provided in said tongue.

20 – 21 (cancelled)

22. (currently amended) The towing assembly of claim 19, wherein said tongue includes a first face and a second face, said ~~recess~~ cavity being provided in said first face.

23. (currently amended) The towing assembly of claim 22, further including a second ~~recess~~ cavity, said second ~~recess~~ cavity being provided in said second face.

24. (currently amended) The towing assembly of claim 23, further including a spacer sized and shaped to be received in either of said ~~recess~~ cavity and said second ~~recess~~ cavity.

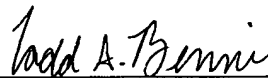
25. (currently amended) The towing assembly of claim 24, wherein said ~~recess~~ cavity and said second ~~recess~~ cavity are a shape selected from a group consisting of oval, polygonal, square, rectangular, star and hexagonal.

26. (cancelled)

27. (currently amended) A method of securing a hitch ball to a hitch ball receiver, comprising:
engaging a ~~base of~~ member connected with said hitch ball in ~~an acircular recess~~ a cavity in said hitch ball receiver; and
securing a fastener to said hitch ball while engagement between said member and said cavity ~~base and a sidewall of said recess~~ prevent said hitch ball from rotating.
28. (currently amended) A hitch ball receiver, comprising:
a body;
a hitch ball mounting aperture in said body; and
~~a recess~~ at least one cavity on said body ~~around~~ in proximity to said hitch ball receiving aperture.
29. (original) The hitch ball receiver of claim 28, wherein said body includes a first face and a second face, said second face being opposite said first face and said hitch ball mounting aperture extending through both of said first and second faces.
30. (currently amended) The hitch ball receiver of claim 29, wherein said ~~recess~~ cavity is in said first face and a second recess is provided in said second face.
- 31 – 33 (cancelled)
34. (new) The towing assembly of claim 1, wherein the member is a base integrally formed with the hitch ball.
35. (new) The towing assembly of claim 2, wherein the cavity is a recess.

Please amend the present application as shown. As this Preliminary Amendment is being filed prior to an Official Office Action on the merits, no fees are believed due. However, if any fee should be required, please charge Deposit Account No. 13-0265. Please contact the undersigned if any issues exist.

Respectfully submitted,



Todd A. Benni
Reg. No. 42,313
McDonald Hopkins Co., LPA
600 Superior Avenue, E.
Suite 2100
Cleveland, OH 44114-2653
(216) 348-5740

Date: Sept. 13, 2004